

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2002

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‘Beach Play Day’ Brings Youth To Huntington State Beach

Kickoff on Wednesday July 31

HUNTINGTON BEACH – Hundreds of youth from around California, many of them from the inner city, are coming to Huntington State Beach for this year’s annual “Beach Play Day” at Huntington State Beach. Acting State Parks Director Ruth Coleman announced today. The event is intended to introduce youth from various communities to one another and to the activities and resources offered in California State Parks.

The fifth annual “Beach Play Day,” scheduled for July 31 to August 1, is being sponsored by California State Parks, the State Parks Police Activities League, the California State Parks Foundation and the California Police Activities League (CAL PAL) representing other police agencies around California. It will be held at the popular Huntington State Beach, between lifeguard stations 13 and 14. Communities from throughout the state will be participating and led by State Park staff, volunteers and community police officers a wide range of agencies.

On Wednesday, July 31, the “Beach Play Day” will kickoff at 9:30 a.m. Events in the morning will include a helicopter surf rescue demonstration.

A variety of activities are planned to help the kids – expected to be about 600 in all, age 8 to 17 - enjoy their two-day visit to the beach, including body boarding, rock wall climbing, and participating in educational programs. Surf rescue techniques will be demonstrated, including with the use of a helicopter. Older teenagers will be offered the chance to ride in off-highway vehicles. Following an evening dance, the youth guests will be treated to a campout on the beach.

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“These two days on the beach can make a world of difference in a youth’s life,” said Acting Director Coleman. “State Parks is proud to join with the California State Parks Foundation and the California Police Activities League in sponsoring ‘Beach Play Day.’

Police Activities Leagues are non-profit organizations that are associated with local police departments or sheriff offices. The PALs promote positive relationships between youth and peace officers. The groups’ mission is to use recreation and educational activities to help youth become productive citizens.

Currently there are more than 110 PAL organizations in California that are affiliated with the statewide organization, CAL PAL. Youth for the “Beach Play Day” are selected to attend by their respective PALs for a variety of reasons. Some have stayed in school and out of trouble all year in order to earn trips to special events. Many have never been to the beach before.

The State Parks Police Activities League (SPPAL) is part of the non-profit, California State Parks Foundation. Its mission is to promote responsible citizenship in youth through outdoor recreation and educational experiences. SPPAL was the first PAL representing a state law enforcement agency, its programs are made possible by the financial support of the Foundation’s members and donors.

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